

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Duane C. Basch (Reg. No. 34,545) on 9/24/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 25, line 10, delete "device".

In claim 25, line 11, change "book" to --document--.

In claim 28, line 18, delete "device".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fujioka et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,720) and/or Mandel et al. (US Patent No. 6,574,014) do not disclose, teach or suggest, a cradle assembly for supporting the document therein, said cradle assembly being attached to the base and including a first cradle half and a second cradle half, wherein each of the cradle halves further includes a cradle base joined to a book support plate by a linkage and a drive motor operatively coupled to the book support plate, such that operation of the drive motor

displaces the book support plate in an arcuate manner relative to the cradle base; and wherein the support plates of the first and second cradle halves are joined by a flexible web of material, as claimed in independent claim 1.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fujioka et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,720) and/or Mandel et al. (US Patent No. 6,574,014) do not disclose, teach or suggest, wherein each of the cradle halves of the cradle assembly comprises a cradle base joined to a book support plate by a linkage, each cradle half further having a clamp, and a drive motor suitably operatively coupled to the book support plate, such that operation of the drive motor displaces the book support plate in an arcuate manner relative to the cradle base; and wherein the support plates of the first and second cradle halves are joined by a flexible web of material, as claimed in independent claim 18.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fujioka et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,720) and/or Mandel et al. (US Patent No. 6,574,014) do not disclose, teach or suggest, adjusting the position of the document by displacing at least one support plate in an arcuate manner such that at least one of the first and second pages are entirely within the field of view of at least one image acquisition device; displacing at least the outer edge of the second page from contact with subsequent adjacent pages; temporarily placing a vacuum head proximate to at least a portion of the surface of the second page; acquiring the second page with the vacuum head; turning the second page about its line of contact with the binding of the document until the printed surface of the second page is

substantially congruent with the printed surface of the first page; and releasing the second page from the vacuum head, as claimed in independent claim 25.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fujioka et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,720) and/or Mandel et al. (US Patent No. 6,574,014) do not disclose, teach or suggest, adjusting the position of the document by displacing at least one book support plate in an arcuate manner such that at least one of the first and second pages are entirely within the field of view of at least one image acquisition device; releasing the page clamping device; displacing at least the outer edge of the second page from contact with subsequent adjacent pages; temporarily placing a vacuum head proximate to at least a portion of the surface of the second page; acquiring the second page with the vacuum head; turning the second page about an edge thereof until the printed surface of the second page is substantially congruent with the printed surface of the first page; and releasing the second page from the vacuum head, as claimed in independent claim 28.

The closest prior art of record, namely, Fujioka et al. (US Patent No. 5,610,720) and/or Mandel et al. (US Patent No. 6,574,014) do not disclose, teach or suggest, a drive motor, operatively coupled to the book support plates, such that operation of the drive motor displaces the book support plates in an arcuate manner relative to the cradle base; and wherein the support plates of the first and second cradle halves are joined by a flexible web of material, as claimed in independent claim 31.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dov Popovici whose telephone number is 571-272-4083. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dov Popovici
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/Dov Popovici/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625